

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the Office Action of August 18, 2004.

Reconsideration and allowance of the application and all presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

Upon entry of this Response, claims 1-5 and 7-15 are pending in this application. Claims 4 and 12 have been directly amended herein and claims 5 and 16 have been canceled. The prior art made of record has been considered, but is not believed to affect the patentability of the presently pending claims. The Applicants believe that no new matter has been added and that a new search is not required based on the amendments and/or arguments.

CLAIMS**Claim 1**

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as purportedly being anticipated by the reference US 6,157,435 in view of US 6,642,956. Claim 1 reads as follows:

1. A digital image routing system, comprising:
 means for receiving a digital image packet from a customer that includes a digital image from a digital camera and a customer preference parameter; and
 means for *transmitting the digital image packet to a remote digital image editing system selected according to the customer preference parameter.*

(Emphasis added). The Applicants traverse the rejection and submit that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §103 should be withdrawn because ‘435 and ‘956, in combination or individually, do not disclose, teach, or suggest the highlighted portions in claim 1 above. In particular, ‘435 teaches that the “IDM 50 can perform enhancements to such digital images signals...or any other digital image manipulation which the customer may find desirable...”. Reference ‘435 does not disclose, teach, or suggest “transmitting the digital image packet to a remote digital image editing system selected according to the customer preference parameter.” In particular, ‘435 does not disclose, teach, or suggest that the remote digital

image editing system for which the digital image packet is transmitted too is determined by the customer via the customer preference parameter. '435 only mentions digital image manipulation.

In addition, '435 and '956, in combination or individually, do not disclose, teach, or suggest "receiving a digital image packet from a customer that includes a digital image from a digital camera and a customer preference parameter." In particular, '435 teaches scanning information from an envelope that includes therein standard film, but does not teach that the digital image is received from a customer that includes the digital image and the customer preference parameter. '956 teaches that "an electronic copy of a particular captured image" can be sent to a third party (Col. 10, lines 40-43), but '956 does not teach a customer preference parameter and, in particular, does not teach sending additional data in a digital image packet with the digital image. Therefore, '435 in view of '956 does not disclose, teach, or suggest "receiving a digital image packet from a customer that includes a digital image from a digital camera and a customer preference parameter." For at least these reasons, the rejection to claim 1 should be withdrawn.

In addition, the Applicants respectfully submit that pending dependent claims 2 and 3 include every feature of independent claim 1. Thus, pending dependent claims 2 and 3 are allowable over the prior art of record. *In re Fine*, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d 1596, 1600 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

Claim 4

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as purportedly being anticipated by the references US 6,157,435 in view of US 6,642,956. Claim 4, as amended, reads as follows:

4. A digital image enhancement system, comprising:

means for receiving a digital image packet from a customer that includes a digital image from a digital camera and a customer preference parameter;

means for enhancing the digital image based on the customer preference parameter;

means for transmitting an enhanced digital image packet that includes an enhanced digital image and an enhancement description packet that describes the enhancements made for each of the digital images; and

means for *transmitting the digital image packet to a remote digital image editing system selected according to the customer preference parameter.*

(Emphasis added). The Applicants traverse the rejection and submit that the rejection of claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103 should be withdrawn because ‘435 and ‘956, in combination or individually, do not disclose, teach, or suggest the highlighted portions in claim 4 above. In particular, ‘435 teaches that the “IDM 50 can perform enhancements to such digital images signals...or any other digital image manipulation which the customer may find desirable...”. Reference ‘435 does not disclose, teach, or suggest “transmitting the digital image packet to a remote digital image editing system selected according to the customer preference parameter.” In particular, ‘435 does not disclose, teach, or suggest that the remote digital image editing system for which the digital image packet is transmitted too is determined by the customer via the customer preference parameter. ‘435 only mentions digital image manipulation.

In addition, ‘435 and ‘956, in combination or individually, do not disclose, teach, or suggest “receiving a digital image packet from a customer that includes a digital image from a digital camera and a customer preference parameter.” In particular, ‘435 teaches scanning information from an envelope that includes therein standard film, but does not teach that the digital image is received from a customer that includes the digital image and the customer preference parameter, as stated by the Examiner. ‘956 teaches that “an electronic copy of a

particular captured image” can be sent to a third party (Col. 10, lines 40-43), but ‘956 does not teach a customer preference parameter and, in particular, does not teach sending additional data in a digital image packet with the digital image. Therefore, ‘435 in view of ‘956 does not disclose, teach, or suggest “receiving a digital image packet from a customer that includes a digital image from a digital camera and a customer preference parameter.” For at least these reasons, the rejection to claim 4 should be withdrawn.

In addition, the Applicants respectfully submit that pending dependent claim 5 include every feature of independent claim 4. Thus, pending dependent claim 5 are allowable over the prior art of record.

Claim 7

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as purportedly being anticipated by the references US 6,157,435 in view of US 6,642,956. Claim 7, as amended, reads as follows:

7. A digital image routing method, comprising the steps of:
 receiving a digital image packet from a customer that includes a digital image from a digital camera and a customer preference parameter;
 transmitting the digital image packet to a remote digital image editing system selected according to the customer preference parameter; and
 transmitting the digital image packet to a remote digital image editing system selected according to the customer preference parameter.

(Emphasis added). The Applicants traverse the rejection and submit that the rejection of claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103 should be withdrawn because ‘435 and ‘956, in combination or individually, do not disclose, teach, or suggest the highlighted portions in claim 7 above. In particular, ‘435 teaches that the “IDM 50 can perform enhancements to such digital images signals...or any other digital image manipulation which the customer may find desirable...”. Reference ‘435 does not disclose, teach, or suggest “transmitting the digital image packet to a remote digital image editing system selected according to the customer preference parameter.” In particular, ‘435 does not disclose, teach, or suggest that the remote digital image editing system for which the digital image packet is transmitted too is determined by

the customer via the customer preference parameter. ‘435 only mentions digital image manipulation.

In addition, ‘435 and ‘956, in combination or individually, do not disclose, teach, or suggest “receiving a digital image packet from a customer that includes a digital image from a digital camera and a customer preference parameter.” In particular, ‘435 teaches scanning information from an envelope that includes therein standard film, but does not teach that the digital image is received from a customer that includes the digital image and the customer preference parameter, as stated by the Examiner. ‘956 teaches that “an electronic copy of a particular captured image” can be sent to a third party (Col. 10, lines 40-43), but ‘956 does not teach a customer preference parameter and, in particular, does not teach sending additional data in a digital image packet with the digital image. Therefore, ‘435 in view of ‘956 does not disclose, teach, or suggest “receiving a digital image packet from a customer that includes a digital image from a digital camera and a customer preference parameter.” For at least these reasons, the rejection to claim 7 should be withdrawn.

Claim 12

Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as purportedly being anticipated by the references US 6,157,435 in view of US 6,642,956. Claim 12, as amended, reads as follows:

12. A digital image enhancement method, comprising the steps of:
 - receiving a digital image packet from a customer that includes a digital image from a digital camera and a customer preference parameter;
 - enhancing the digital image based on the customer preference parameter;
 - transmitting an enhanced digital image packet that includes an enhanced digital image and an enhancement description packet that describes the enhancements made for each of the digital images; and
 - transmitting the digital image packet to a remote digital image editing system selected according to the customer preference parameter.***

(Emphasis added). The Applicants traverse the rejection and submit that the rejection

of claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103 should be withdrawn because ‘435 and ‘956, in combination or individually, do not disclose, teach, or suggest the highlighted portions in claim 12 above. In particular, ‘435 teaches that the “IDM 50 can perform enhancements to such digital images signals...or any other digital image manipulation which the customer may find desirable...”. Reference ‘435 does not disclose, teach, or suggest “transmitting the digital image packet to a remote digital image editing system selected according to the customer preference parameter.” In particular, ‘435 does not disclose, teach, or suggest that the remote digital image editing system for which the digital image packet is transmitted too is determined by the customer via the customer preference parameter. ‘435 only mentions digital image manipulation.

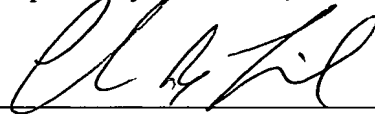
In addition, ‘435 and ‘956, in combination or individually, do not disclose, teach, or suggest “receiving a digital image packet from a customer that includes a digital image from a digital camera and a customer preference parameter.” In particular, ‘435 teaches scanning information from an envelope that includes therein standard film, but does not teach that the digital image is received from a customer that includes the digital image and the customer preference parameter, as stated by the Examiner. ‘956 teaches that “an electronic copy of a particular captured image” can be sent to a third party (Col. 10, lines 40-43), but ‘956 does not teach a customer preference parameter and, in particular, does not teach sending additional data in a digital image packet with the digital image. Therefore, ‘435 in view of ‘956 does not disclose, teach, or suggest “receiving a digital image packet from a customer that includes a digital image from a digital camera and a customer preference parameter.” For at least these reasons, the rejection to claim 12 should be withdrawn.

In addition, the Applicants respectfully submit that pending dependent claims 13-15 include every feature of independent claim 12. Thus, pending dependent claims 13-15 are allowable over the prior art of record.

CONCLUSION

The Applicants respectfully request that all outstanding rejections be withdrawn and that this application and all presently pending claims be allowed to issue. If the Examiner has any questions or comments regarding Applicant's response, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the Applicant's undersigned counsel.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. B. Linder', is written over a horizontal line.

Christopher B. Linder
Registration No. 47,751

**THOMAS, KAYDEN,
HORSTEMEYER & RISLEY, L.L.P.**
Suite 1750
100 Galleria Parkway N.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30339
(770) 933-9500